

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Nancy Ballance, on March 23, 2017 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Nancy Ballance, Chair (R)  
Rep. Randy Brodehl, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Kelly McCarthy, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Dan Bartel (R)  
Rep. Tom Burnett (R)  
Rep. Rob Cook (R)  
Rep. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Rep. Janet Ellis (D)  
Rep. Carl Glimm (R)  
Rep. Bradley Hamlett (D)  
Rep. Kenneth L. Holmlund (R)  
Rep. Mike Hopkins (R)  
Rep. Donald W. Jones (R)  
Rep. Jim Keane (D)  
Rep. Jon A. Knokey (R)  
Rep. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Rep. Jimmy Patelis (R)  
Rep. Rae Peppers (D)  
Rep. Marilyn Ryan (D)  
Rep. Brad Tschida (R)  
Rep. Tom Woods (D)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Kimberly Dudik (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Julie Johnson, Legislative Branch  
Joe Triem, Legislative Branch  
Sherri Row, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 618, 3/15/2017; HB 365, 3/15/2017; HB 550, 3/15/2017; HB 558, 3/15/2017

00:01:29 Chair Ballance  
00:01:44 Rep. Dudik joined the meeting  
00:01:54 Chair Ballance relinquished the chair to Vice Chair Brodehl

**HEARING ON HB 618**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:11 Rep. Nancy Ballance (R), HD 87, opened the hearing on HB 618, Increase nursing home bed tax for nursing home rate increases.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:49 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association  
[EXHIBIT\(aph60b01\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT\(aph60b02\)](#)

00:11:46 Bob Olson, Montana Hospital Association  
00:12:31 Jesse Luther, Benefis Health System

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:13:51 Rep. Burnett  
00:15:21 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association  
00:16:19 Rep. Ryan  
00:18:18 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association  
00:18:38 Rep. Woods  
00:20:47 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association  
00:21:30 Rep. Burnett  
00:23:05 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association  
00:24:31 Rep. Holmlund  
00:27:31 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association  
00:27:55 Rep. Woods  
00:29:02 Rose Hughes, Montana Health Care Association

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:29:15 Rep. Ballance

**HEARING ON HB 365**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:31:28 Rep. Ray Shaw (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 365, Revise underground utility laws.

00:32:19 Rep. Ballance left the meeting

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:32:51 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)  
00:34:15 Ron Devlen, NorthWestern Energy  
00:34:50 Todd Devlin, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
00:35:09 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors Association  
00:35:53 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunication Association  
00:36:18 Travis Kavula, Public Service Commission (PSC)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:37:30 Rep. Shaw

**HEARING ON HB 550**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:38:14 Rep. Jeff Essmann (R), HD 54, opened the hearing on HB 550, Revise laws related to corporate loss carryback and carryforward.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:41:19 Holly Franz, Montana Society of CPA's  
00:41:43 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association  
00:42:04 Chair Brodehl relinquished the chair to Rep. Tschida and left the meeting

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:42:27 Director Mike Kadas, Department of Revenue (DOR)

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(aph60b03\)\*\*](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

00:45:45 Sam Schaffer, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:46:01 Rep. Keane  
00:48:04 Rep. Essmann  
00:48:08 Rep. Woods  
00:48:24 Rep. Essmann  
00:48:42 Director Kadas, DOR

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:49:02 Rep. Essmann

**HEARING ON HB 558**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:50:00 Rep. Greg Hertz (R), HD 12, opened the hearing on HB 558, Revise tax rates to mitigate reappraisal.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:51:53 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
00:53:57 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)  
00:55:02 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MONTAX)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:55:46 Director Kadas, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Informational Testimony:**

01:02:14 Ed Caplis, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:02:39 Rep. Cook  
01:03:45 Director Kadas, DOR  
01:04:03 Chair Tschida  
01:04:35 Rep. Hertz  
01:04:52 Chair Tschida  
01:05:48 Director Kadas, DOR

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:06:07 Rep. Hertz  
  
01:07:47 Chair Tschida  
01:08:05 Joe Triem, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
01:08:57 Chair Tschida

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 01:09:05

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Sherri Row, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([aph60bad.pdf](#))